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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954

E. M. HAMILTON, M.B.E., M.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee for 1954-1955

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor A. C. Lester
Councillor M. L. Whiteley

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Councillor A. Dowse
Councillor A. T. Evans (Vice-Chairman)

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor Mrs. N. M. Bosley
Councillor J. M. Dipper
Councillor H. T. Merritt

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor R. J. Beasant
Councillor The Rev. P. Bone (Chairman)
Councillor W. J. Smith

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor J. L. Sale, C.I.E.
Councillor H. Walters

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. G. V. Spooner

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. E. M. Hamilton, M.B.E.

Health Department Clerk: Mr. W. T. Watts

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

This report covers a period before I was appointed as your Medical Officer and not being familiar with the circumstances appertaining to the area during this time I have therefore confined any remarks to the statistical data in the text.

My thanks are due to the sanitary inspectors of the four districts who have compiled much information essential to this report, to Mr. Watts whose assistance during my period of initiation has been invaluable and to Drs. Barclay and Parfitt for their work on behalf of the Committee following the departure of your former Medical Officer of Health Dr. Griffith.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. M. HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

There has been little change in the population of the combined districts during 1954. Wantage Rural District showed a 2.7% increase whereas Wallingford Rural District showed a 2% decrease in population. The over all increase of 155 represents less than the excess of births over deaths.

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-year Population 1952	1953	1954	Difference
Wallingford Borough	760	3618	3725	3710	-15
Wantage Urban	2797	5399	5430	5520	+90
Wallingford Rural	21790	15840	16660	16330	-330
Wantage Rural	74181	15050	15050	15460	+410
Total	99528	39907	40865	41020	+155

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

The birth rate of the combined districts shows a slight increase and remains higher than the 1954 rates for England and Wales and the County of Berkshire. Wallingford Rural District showed an increase in the birth rate but this was offset by a similar decline in the rate of Wallingford Borough.

District	No. of Live Births 1953 Total	1954 Male	1954 Female	1954 Total	Live Birth Rate per 1000 Pop. 1953	1954
Wallingford Borough	72	34	27	61	19.3	16.4
Wantage Urban	92	40	52	92	16.9	16.7
Wallingford Rural	265	152	154	306	15.9	18.7
Wantage Rural	313	150	149	299	20.8	19.3
Total	742	376	382	758	18.1	18.5
England & Wales					15.5	15.2
County of Berkshire					16.1	16.5

(b) Stillbirths

The stillbirth rate for 1954 in the combined districts was considerably lower than that for 1953. It should be noted that it is well below the rates for England and Wales and the County of Berkshire.

District	Number of Stillbirths 1952	1953	1954	Stillbirth Rate per 1000 Total Births 1952	1953	1954
Wallingford Borough	1	3	3			
Wantage Urban	1	1	1			
Wallingford Rural	6	6	8			
Wantage Rural	4	7	2			
Total	12	17	14	16.8	22.9	18.5
England & Wales				22.6	22.4	23.4
County of Berkshire				18.2	19.6	19.6

(c) Illegitimate Births

The total number of illegitimate births in the combined districts was 34 i.e., 4.5% of the total births which compares favourably with 4.7% for England and Wales as a whole.

District	Number of Illegitimate Births per annum 1938	1945	1947	1952	1953	1954
Wallingford Borough	3	5	0	5	1	1
Wantage Urban	3	17	3	5	0	3
Wallingford Rural	11	26	15	21	16	18
Wantage Rural	7	30	14	15	14	12
Total	24	78	32	46	31	34

DEATHS

(a) All Causes

Deaths occurring in hospitals, old people's homes and institutions during 1954 were once again not transferable so that 1953 and 1954 rates can be compared. It will be seen there has been a slight increase in the rate which remains higher than that for England and Wales.

District	No. Deaths all causes 1952	1953	1954	Death rate per 1000 Pop. 1952	1953	1954
Wallingford Borough	36	133	121	9.9	35.7	32.6
Wantage Urban	51	54	56	9.4	10.0	10.1
Wallingford Rural	122	208	211	7.7	12.5	12.9
Wantage Rural	139	121	139	9.2	8.0	9.0
Total	348	516	527	8.7	12.6	12.8
England and Wales				11.3	11.4	11.3

(i) Cancer

Of the total number of deaths in the combined districts 14.1% were caused by cancer. 12 deaths were attributable to cancer of the lung compared to 10 in 1953. Recent research has proved that cigarette smoking is an aetiological factor in the causation of lung cancer though others such as atmospheric polution may be involved. In the preventive field it is therefore our duty to persuade teenage boys and girls not to commence this habit.

(ii) Coronary Disease

One eighth of all deaths in the combined districts was due to coronary disease and many of these occurred in the 40—60 age group. We now know that this condition is more prevalent in highly developed countries, amongst the upper classes, those whose occupation entails little physical exertion, obese subjects and once again smokers. It would appear we enjoy too much the good things of life at considerable expense to the exclusion of the cheapest—exercise in the fresh air.

(b) Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for the combined districts shows a considerable fall and is well below the rates for the County and England and Wales. It should be noted that out of 15 infant deaths 12 occurred in the neonatal period, i.e., during the first four weeks of life. This must surely be a reminder that although the infant mortality of the nation has greatly decreased in recent years there has not been a corresponding decrease in neonatal mortality and therefore further research should be concentrated on this period.

District	No. of Infant Deaths (under 12 mths.) 1953	1954	Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births 1953	1954
Wallingford Borough	1	1		
Wantage Urban	3	1		
Wallingford Rural	9	7		
Wantage Rural	6	6		
Total	19	15	25.6	19.8
England and Wales			26.8	25.5
County of Berkshire			22.8	22.1

(c) Maternal Mortality

For the third successive year no deaths were attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Notifiable Disease	Wal'f'd Borough	Wantage U.D.	Wal'f'd R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1953	Total 1954
Measles	—	2	3	—	858	5
Whooping Cough	11	11	28	31	154	81
Scarlet Fever	1	14	13	24	39	52
Pneumonia	—	1	5	4	10	10
Food Poisoning	1	—	2	1	9	4
Dysentery	—	—	3	2	6	5
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	4	—
Puerpural Pyrexia	4	—	—	1	3	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	5	16	16	30	43
Non-pulmonary ,,	—	—	2	2	8	4
Total	23	33	72	81	1124	209

It will be seen from the accompanying table that 1954 was a good year there being only 209 notifications compared to 1124 in 1953. Of these 43 were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis an increase of 13 on the previous year. This increase is more likely due to the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the area rather than an increase in the incidence of the disease. Mass Radiography always reveals unsuspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis amongst the population and is a powerful instrument in detecting them at a stage when they are most amenable to treatment.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the combined districts during 1954 and there were only 4 cases of food poisoning.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954

(REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURNS)

Causes	Wallingford Borough			Wantage U.D.			Wallingford R.D.			Wantage R.D.			Comb'd Dists.	Death Rate per 1000 Pop. Comb'd Dists.	England & Wales
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total		
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	1	1	5	0.12	0.16
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.02
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	0.05	0.03
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.00
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.01
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.00
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.00
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.02
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	4	—	2	2	9	0.22	0.32
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—	3	—	2	2	3	—	3	4	—	4	12	0.29	0.37
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	3	3	10	0.24	0.19
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1	—	—	—	0	1	1	—	—	—	2	0.05	0.09
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8	3	1	4	4	12	16	7	6	13	41	1.00	1.02
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.05

Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.07
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	20	13	33	5	7	12	9	20	29	5	14	19	93	2.27	1.63
Coronary disease, angina	8	2	10	2	2	4	15	13	28	10	14	24	66	1.61	1.51
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	2	2	4	9	0.22	0.27
Other heart diseases	12	5	17	2	3	5	21	28	49	7	10	17	88	2.15	1.90
Other circulatory diseases	6	6	12	3	2	5	4	5	9	3	4	7	33	0.80	0.56
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	0.02	0.04
Pneumonia	9	1	10	3	1	4	3	14	17	5	3	8	39	0.95	0.41
Bronchitis	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	3	8	4	2	6	15	0.37	0.58
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	3	6	0.15	0.11
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	4	6	0.15	0.12
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	2	6	0.15	0.05
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	0.02	0.12
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	4	0.10	0.10
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.11
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	2	1	3	7	0.17	0.10
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	10	14	1	11	12	8	7	15	5	5	10	51	1.24	0.90
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	5	6	0.15	0.10
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	5	6	—	1	1	9	0.22	0.25
Suicide	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	0.07	0.11
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0.01
Total	73	48	121	23	33	56	90	121	211	66	73	139	527	12.80	11.30

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954-55

Councillor A. C. Lester (Chairman)
The Mayor (Councillor J. O. Johnstone)
Councillor H. W. Clayton
Councillor T. D. Grandison
Councillor Mrs. F. E. Simmons
Alderman Horace Walters
Councillor M. L. Whiteley
Councillor E. F. Woolford

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

Sanitary Inspector: N. J. Arney, A.I.A.S., M.S.I.A.

WATER SUPPLY

Virtually the whole of the dwelling-houses in the Borough are supplied with water from the Corporation's Water Undertaking. The water is obtained from 5 boreholes at the waterworks in Station Road and it is chlorinated prior to distribution. Samples taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory service for bacteriological examination were reported upon as follows: —

Source	B.coli per 100 ml.	Remarks
Domestic Tap	NIL	Grade 1 (Min. of H.).
Borehole No. 4	NIL	Highly Satisfactory.
Domestic Tap	1	Slight Contamination (non-faecal).

The Public Analyst reported that a sample taken from the Town's supply for chemical analysis was "quite satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes, although very hard".

In connection with the proposed electrification of the works a test pumping of Borehole No. 4 was carried out: at the end of the year it appeared unlikely that the anticipated yield would be forthcoming.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The joint scheme of Sewage Disposal was commenced during the year and it was hoped that it would be well advanced in 1955.

A particularly obstinate obstruction occurred in the system during August which proved difficult and expensive to clear: the attention of Residents was drawn to the danger of passing foreign matter down the sewers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of household refuse was maintained during the year with no complaints of non-collection. The old 7 cu. yd. collection vehicle carried on surprisingly well considering its age although the time cannot be far distant when its useful economic life will cease.

The Refuse Tip at Beggars Bush was used and regularly serviced for flies and rats. An arrangement was arrived at with the Owner/Occupier for coverage.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operator shared with the Rural District Council supplied the following details of work executed during the year:

	Visits	
	Rodents	Other nuisances
Dwelling Houses	207	54
Business Premises	17	42
Local Authority Property ...	14	—
Agricultural Premises	6	—

Estimated Kills: Rats 795; Mice 240.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The new Ladies' and Gentlemen's Conveniences at the Town Hall were completed at the end of the year and constituted a step forward in hygienic conditions in this respect.

MILK SUPPLIES

There were two registered Dairies in the Borough retailing Designated Milk, the total number of designated milk licences in force being:—1 Tuberculin-tested, 2 Tuberculin-tested (pasteurised) and 1 Pasteurised. 3 Supplementary Licences authorising the use of designations were also in force.

Three samples of milk taken for laboratory examination proved satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream remained at 15, one being registered for manufacture. The premises were considered satisfactory, 3 samples giving satisfactory results on analysis.

FOOD PREMISES, AND SHOPS

Inclusive of hotels with catering licences, shops numbered 100. There was no contraventions found under the By-laws or the Shops Acts.

The standard of cleanliness at the 15 restaurants, cafes and hotels possessing catering licences was considered generally satisfactory and the 5 bakehouses were also considered to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

On the cessation of meat rationing a licence was granted permitting the utilisation of one Slaughter-house after almost complete reconstruction and modernisation and another was granted a temporary licence dependent upon the carrying out of repair works. One licence was refused on Public Health grounds.

From 5th July the following home-killed food animals were inspected as to fitness for human consumption: —

Cows	...	13	Sheep	...	376
Heifers	...	77	Pigs	...	282
Steers	...	92	Calves	...	21
	Total	...	861		

The undermentioned organs were condemned as diseased or unsound: —

	Heads & Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Mesenteries	Other
Beef	12	4	30	3	1
Sheep	—	1	41	—	—
Pigs	1	1	3	—	1
Total	13	6	74	3	2

Also, the entire carcase and all offal of a pig.

The following items of unsound foodstuffs were also examined and voluntarily surrendered: —

	Wt. (lbs.)
Fresh English Beef	160
English Pork	103
Ham	15
Imported Lamb	6
Corned Beef	12
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	142
Plaice	70
Total Weight	4 Cwt. 2 qrs. 4 lbs.

HOUSING AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS

41 new permanent houses were erected in Wallingford during 1954. 38 of these (including 5 flats) were erected by the Local Authority.

No Demolition or Closing Orders were made in respect of any dwellings, but 3 Improvement Grants were granted by the Council which will have the effect of bringing 3 comparatively old properties up to a decent standard. Six inspections of housing defects were made as a result of which 4 informal notices were served requiring their rectification.

There were 3 licensed movable dwellings in the Borough in 1954.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	39	27	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecut'ns instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To HM Inspector	Referred By HM Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

There was 1 outworker employed in the making of wearing apparel.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954-55

Councillor J. L. Sale, C.I.E., J.P. (Chairman)
Councillor A. Dowse
Councillor A. T. Evans
Councillor R. H. G. Humphries
Councillor Lt. Col. J. Innes
Councillor H. S. Smith
Councillor O. S. Walter
Councillor Mrs. M. Whipple

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

Sanitary Inspector: L. Oliver, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLIES

	1953	1954
(a) Number of houses in the area possessing an internal piped supply	1413	1473
(b) Number of houses in the area possessing an external piped supply	119	117
(c) Number of houses in the area not possessing a piped supply from the Wantage U.D.C. Supply System	47	44

(d) Extensions to water supplies during 1954.

402 lineal yards of 3in. Asbestos Cement water main laid to serve the extension of Springfield Road Housing Estate.

(e) 10 samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination, and all were returned in Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading

(f) One sample was obtained for chemical analysis.

SEWERAGE

(a) Number of houses connected to main sewers for sewage disposal	1479	1527
(b) Number of houses with Cesspool for sewage disposal	24	23
(c) Number of houses with no drains for sewage disposal	16	16

Progress is now being made with the construction of new sludge drying beds and it is hoped to have these in operation at an early date. In the meantime it has been found necessary to excavate additional trenches as difficulty is still being experienced in drying out sludge.

REFUSE COLLECTION

House Refuse is collected weekly from all houses in the Urban Area. Trade Refuse is collected at monthly intervals.

The new tip at Gypsy Lane, Grove has now been brought into use but on several occasions tipping has had to be diverted to the Grove Street tip due to fires at the new tip. The Grove Street Tip has not yet been sealed off.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent treatment has been undertaken as follows:—

(a) Council owned houses	3
(b) Private Houses	11
(c) Business premises	nil
(d) Sewer manholes	64
(e) Refuse Tip	6

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district both of whom hold supplementary licenses to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk.

There is one retail dairy in the district which is frequently inspected.

One sample of Pasteurised milk, two of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and one of Tuberculin Tested were obtained, the latter, on examination, was found to be unsatisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Number of premises licensed for the manufacture of ice cream	One factory was licensed for the manufacture of ice cream until April, 1954, when production ceased and the premises were closed down and the licence lapsed.
Number of premises licensed for the sale of ice cream	16
Premises inspected during 1954	15
Number of inspections made during 1954	27

Thirteen samples of ice cream were obtained, 11 of which were in provisional grade 1, and 2 in provisional grade 2.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are six catering establishments in the district including hotels with catering licences.

All premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 11 and no action was found necessary.

BAKEHOUSES

4 bakehouses are in operation in the district. 9 visits were made and the condition was such that no action has been found necessary during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Following the decontrol of meat and livestock two applications were received for licences to use premises as Slaughterhouses.

One licence was granted after works of improvement had been undertaken and one licence was refused on the grounds that the premises were unsuitable both as regards structure and site.

Seven licences to slaughter animals have been granted.

From the 2nd July until the 31st December the following table gives details of the animals slaughtered and of the meat found, on inspection, to be unfit for human consumption.

		Unfit for Human Consumption			
	Animals Inspected	Whole Carcase	Heads	Lungs	Liver
Bovines other than calves	395	1	13	8	14
Calves	116	—	—	—	—
Sheep	484	—	—	18	8
Pigs	383	1	4	3	5

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntary surrendered: —

349 lbs. Beef, 9 tins Pork Luncheon, 5 tins Minced Beef Loaf, 4 tins Corned Beef, 1 tin Beef Steak, 1 tin Jellied Veal, 2 tins Stewed Steak, 3 tins Welsh Rabbit, 1 tin Lobster, 2 tins Pilchards, 2 tins Herrings, 3 tins Tomatoes, 26 tins Peas, 11 tins Beans, 8 lbs. Cheddar Cheese, 1 tin Cream of Onion Soup, 23 tins Milk, 1 tin Cream, 5 tins Blackcurrants, 4 tins Blackberries, 1 tin Raspberries, 4 tins Pineapples, 5 tins Peaches, 2 tins Apricots, 4 tins Plums, 1 tin Pears, 2 tins Oranges, 1 tin Peach Pulp, 1 tin Youngberries, 1 tin Raspberry Jam, 1 tin Apricot Jam.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

A site at the rear of Grove Street is licensed for 16 caravans. The site is regularly inspected. The sanitary and ablution arrangements are satisfactory and no action has been found necessary.

There are also two caravans in the area licensed as movable dwellings.

PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

There are no private nursing homes in the district.

HOUSING

	1953	1954
Number of permanent houses erected	21	48
Number of permanent houses erected by Local Authority	16	44
Number of permanent houses erected by Private Enterprise	5	4
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—
Number of families on Housing Lists	258	196

The selection of tenants is primarily by a points scheme.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under Section 47	—
Number of persons dealt with under Section 50	1

SHOPS

Number of shops in district	95
Number of shops inspected	38
Number of inspections	38

HOUSING DEFECTS

	133
Number of inspections made during the year	133
Number of Statutory Notices	1
Number of houses repaired in period	104

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	17	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	—	—
TOTAL	38	33	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

NIL

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork—NIL

NUISANCES

Number of nuisances abated during year 67

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of premises disinfected during year 2

Reason of disinfection Following Infectious Disease or at request of tenant

PUBLIC BATHS

Number in the district	One
Source of Water	Mains Supply
How often emptied	Once weekly
Method of purification	None
Water samples taken	None

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING 1954

Number of different premises inspected 233

Number of inspections made	422
Number of complaints received	139
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	46
Number of Notices: Formal	1
Informal	24

Number of defects or nuisances abated

As to W.C.'s Privies, Sink Wastes, etc.	26
As to Drains, Cesspools, etc.	31
As to pigs or other animals	Nil
As to deficient or impure water	Nil
As to unclean houses	1
As to overcrowded houses	Nil
As to insanitary accumulations	1
Number of premises disinfected	2
Number of premises treated for vermin	1
Number of water samples taken for bacteriological examination	10
Number of premises disinfected	2
Number of water samples taken for chemical analysis	1
Number of houses connected to water supply	60
Number of seizures of unsound meat or food	Nil
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	2
Number of inspections of milkshops and dairies	3
Number of milk samples taken	4
Number of inspections of retailers of ice cream	19
Number of inspections of manufacturers of ice cream	8
Number of ice cream samples taken	13
Number of inspections of catering establishments	11
Number of inspections of bakehouses	9
Number of piggeries inspected	2

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor H. T. Merritt (Chairman)
Councillor A. B. Salvetti (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. I. Bristol
Councillor Mrs. E. M. Collier
Councillor J. M. Dipper
Councillor Rev. W. E. Keating
Councillor J. E. Lay
Councillor Air. Com. F. B. Ludlow
Councillor Mrs. M. Robbins
Councillor T. B. Wigley

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

Chief Sanitary Inspector: C. J. Gayfer, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
District Sanitary Inspector: L. Sproston, M.S.I.Ir., M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC BATHS

There are two public baths in the district, one at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, the other at the Beau Regard Roadhouse. The source of water in each case is from the Thames, and the baths are emptied as necessary. Purification is by the Chloretex method. No water samples were taken from these baths by the Local Authority during 1954.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse Collection is from the kerbside, once weekly. There is no charge for the removal of trade refuse. A fee of £1 per annum is charged for additional service in collecting refuse from the back door, where sickness or long distance is involved. Disposal is by controlled tipping in disused gravel pits. Consolidation is by bulldozer and valuable land is being reclaimed. The tip is in open country and no complaints have been received.

The continuous growth of Didcot and other villages is putting a heavy strain on the two vehicles and the staff, which are at present working at full capacity.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

During the year three houses were disinfected on becoming vacant, the former tenants were affected by Tuberculosis.

One empty house was disinfested of fleas before being reconditioned.

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the end of 1954 was 710. By that time all the families living in Ryman's Field Camp had been transferred to permanent accommodation and all the temporary huts demolished. During the year the following new houses were completed—private occupation—28; Council houses—273. There has been no marked increase in the number of complaints regarding old houses. The number of houses improved with the aid of Improvement Grant was 14, the total amount approved for grant during 1954 was £3,135.

During the year 19 unfit houses were closed. On 31.12.54 three families were still occupying unfit houses which were recommended for demolition.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	33	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	37	37	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

NIL

Part VIII of the act

Outwork

There were 7 outworkers all employed in the making of wearing apparel.

SHOPS AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There have been no Clean Food Campaigns in the district during the year. The number of catering establishments (including licensed premises) is 17. This includes 6 cafes, 3 fish and chip shops, 8 licensed premises with catering licences. All these premises were inspected at least once during the period under review. The number of bakehouses in the district is 3, and each one was visited during the year. The general standard of catering establishments in the district is good.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

During the year the following quantities of foodstuffs were surrendered by manufacturers and shopkeepers as unfit for human consumption: —

Fresh meat and offal	164 lbs.
Tinned fruit	814 tins
Tinned meat	60 lbs.
Miscellaneous tinned vegetables	28 lbs.

There have been no complaints concerning the transport of meat from cold stores, abbatoirs, etc., to the shops.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

On the 29th June, 1954, the Ministry of Food ceased to be responsible for the slaughter of animals. Private slaughtering commenced on the 2nd July, 1954, and the Council agreed to issue three licences for private slaughterhouses in the district. One of these licences related to the premises in Cholsey, formerly operated by the Ministry of Food.

Meat inspection has continued in conjunction with private slaughtering, and satisfactory arrangements have been made to carry out these duties efficiently.

Carcases Inspected and Meat Condemned

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	736	170	341	2527	2961
Number Inspected	736	170	341	2527	2961
All Diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	6	3	11	2
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	154	64	1	59	84
Percentage of No. inspected affected	21	41	1	3	3
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole Carcases condemned	3	6	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	47	28	—	—	102
Percentage of No inspected affected	7	20	—	—	3½

MILK SUPPLIES

The district became a Specified Area with effect from 1st April, 1954, under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954.

All milk retailed in the district is now designated as follows: —

2 retailers of Pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised milk
3 Producer/retailers of T.T. milk

During the year 51 samples of milk were taken and of these 5 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction test. Four of these samples were taken from a producer/retailer of non-designated milk in the early part of the year. This producer has now been granted a T.T. Producers Licence and since the licence was granted samples of his milk have proved satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

During 1954 there were 36 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. All these premises are equipped with refrigerators, thermostatically controlled. The ice cream is pre-packed and there appears to be little danger of contamination in distribution. The standard of cleanliness in these premises was satisfactory.

There are two premises in the district licensed for the manufacture of ice cream, only one of these manufacturers is producing at present. His premises are equipped with modern machinery and production conforms with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Samples of his product were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis, and all samples were satisfactory. See report below.

No complaints have been received concerning the standard of cleanliness of ice cream vehicles operating in the district.

Results of Laboratory Tests on Ice Cream Samples

No. of samples taken	2
Results	Grade 1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year there were no persons buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year there were several complaints concerning atmospheric pollution from the chimney of a small factory in the district. The attention of the factory management was drawn to the Council's Byelaws re. smoke nuisance and a personal visit was made to the premises. Since then there has been no further complaint.

SANITARY CONDITION OF PUBLIC HOUSES.

The sanitary condition of public houses in the district is generally satisfactory. No premises are using lead pipes for beer distribution as far as is known.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

During the year legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a cottage to abate a nuisance caused by a defective floor in the sitting room. The owner was ordered to abate the nuisance within 28 days, and was ordered to pay 5/- costs.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1954

During the year notices were served in respect of the following defects: —

General Housing Defects	26
Shops Acts & Food & Drugs Acts	6
Drainage Defects	8
Defective dustbins	109

RODENT CONTROL

During the year 228 premises were visited and treated. The number of re-visits to these premises was 912. In addition 10% of the manholes in the Council sewerage system were baited but no takes were recorded in the manholes.

The estimated kills were as follows: —

Rats 1950 Mice 350

SEWERAGE

No major extensions of the main drainage system were carried out during the year, except for the new housing estates.

The Cholsey Sewerage Scheme was commenced in November, comprising main drainage in the village of Cholsey, sewage disposal works to treat sewage from the Borough of Wallingford, Village of Cholsey and the Fairmile Hospital, and pumping stations at Cholsey, Wallingford and the Fairmile Hospital. The treatment works have been designed for a d.w.f. of 300,000 galls. per day. It is anticipated that the works will be in operation by April, 1956.

Approval has also been obtained to a scheme for improving the stormwater drainage in Lydalls Road, Didcot.

WATER

Most of the new work carried out during the year consisted of main laying to improve the existing reticulation system.

A scheme for obtaining water from Aston Tirrold is now before the Ministry of Housing & Local Government which comprises the provision of two boreholes on the Berkshire Downs, a pumping station, a reservoir on Riddle Hill together with nearly 3 miles of trunk main to connect into the existing reticulation system.

All mains water samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954-55

Councillor W. F. Broome (Chairman)

Councillor Dr. J. S. Edwards (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor J. E. A. Betts

Councillor Rev. P. Bone

Councillor Rev. T. Bruce Cooke

Councillor J. W. Dunsden

Councillor Miss C. I. Green

Councillor Mrs. W. K. Lay

Councillor C. L. Loyd

Councillor R. E. Richardson

Councillor E. B. Rivers

Councillor A. R. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

Senior Sanitary Inspector: E. H. Rosser, CERT. S.I.B., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: D. D. Button, CERT. S.I.B., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MILK

There are 14 distributors of milk registered in the district. Of these, 9 have dairies in the district. Inspections of these dairies have been made regularly throughout the year.

Licences for the distribution of milks under the Special Designation Regulations are in force as follows: —

Tuberculin Tested Milk	11
Pasteurised Milk	7
Sterilised Milk	1

Of the 14 distributors only one continues to retail undesignated milk.

Samples from all the distributors have been taken regularly throughout the year. These have been consistently satisfactory.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Including licensed premises there are 74 catering establishments in the district. There is also one mobile snack bar which is registered under the Berkshire County Council Act. 37 routine visits have been made to these premises and conditions have been found to be satisfactory. The premises themselves are in every case up to the standard required by the Food and Drugs Acts and Food Byelaws, but in several cases the handling of food was not satisfactory. These were dealt with informally and an improvement effected.

SHOPS ACTS

A survey of the shops in the district revealed, as was to be expected, that the majority are small family concerns where no additional staff is employed. In these cases it was considered that the domestic sanitary facilities were satisfactory. In all other cases it was found that suitable sanitary arrangements were provided. A total of 37 visits to shops was made during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

No. of bakehouses in the district	16
No. of inspections	27
No. of written notices	Nil

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHER'S SHOPS

There are four slaughterhouses licenced and in use in the district. On the resumption of private slaughtering in July these slaughterhouses were inspected and before licences were granted they were modernised and redecorated. Conditions at each are now satisfactory.

In addition to these slaughterhouses there is one knacker's yard where conditions are satisfactory.

There are seven slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Since July all animals slaughtered in the district, as listed below, have been inspected:

Cows	43
Beasts	87
Calves	134
Pigs	469
Sheep	239

The following has been condemned as unfit for human consumption: —

Meat

Carcase Meat—Beef	775 lbs.
Pork	385 lbs.
Lungs	78 lbs.
Liver	191 lbs.
Heads and tongues	164 lbs.
Kidneys	12 lbs.

Other Foods

Corned Beef	37 lbs.
Gravy Browning	5 lbs.
Ice Cream Powder	84 lbs.
Butter Emulsion	18 lbs.
Jellied Veal	6 lbs.
Total	1755 lbs.

ICE CREAM

No. of dealers on register 51

During the year five applications for registration of ice cream premises were received. In each case the premises were inspected and, as they were all satisfactory and complied with the Food and Drugs Acts, registration was effected.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

During the year, 1832 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tips at Upton and East Ilsley. A calf-dozer was used for levelling, etc., and this released a man for loading work on the collection vehicle.

In November it was found necessary to commence the revised scheme for the permanent use of two vehicles in the area as the amount of refuse put out for collection could not be dealt with by the 'Paxit' alone. The Dennis side loader was therefore brought into use to relieve the larger machine where necessary.

WATER SUPPLIES

A piped water supply is available in all parishes in the district. The water is, in all cases, chlorinated at source.

64 samples of water were taken from the various sources and apart from one isolated instance, were found to be highly satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was the result of a breakdown in the chlorinating plant and this was remedied immediately.

There are a number of properties which, because of their distance from the mains, will probably never be connected to the piped supply. 15 samples have been taken of the water available in such cases. Of these, 7 were reported to be unsatisfactory. In these instances advice was given as to possible treatment of the water or improvement of the source of supply.

Parish	Acres	Pop.	No. of Properties Council	No. of Properties Private	No. of Properties connected to water mains Council	No. of Properties connected to water mains Private	Sew'age
Ardington	2693	430	—	129	—	74	Yes
E. Challow	1657	695	135	113	73	112	Yes
W. Challow	1070	180	8	40	8	35	
Childrey	2929	495	42	108	42	106	Yes
Denchworth	1041	180	12	42	12	33	
Goosey	946	120	8	29	8	23	
Grove	2513	1420	76	246	76	212	Yes
E. Hanney	2200	510	20	116	20	113	
W. Hanney	1333	380	20	86	20	83	
E. Hendred	3198	1090	46	304	46	188	Yes
W. Hendred	2002	330	29	72	29	64	
L. Regis	2155	455	42	106	42	103	Yes
L. Bassett	1631	140	8	42	8	41	*
Lockinge	3763	250	—	81	—	68	Yes
Sparsholt	3329	260	22	66	22	60	*
Aldworth	1886	200	12	56	12	12	*
Beedon	2096	320	8	103	8	103	*
Blewbury	4246	840	55	228	55	205	*
Brightwalton	2054	280	14	83	14	71	*
Catmore	710	50	—	18	—	—	
Chadleworth	3400	450	41	97	38	92	*
Chilton	1448	645	10	170	6	32	Yes
Compton	3803	935	49	238	49	98	Yes
Farnborough	1886	110	4	31	4	24	
Fawley	2190	160	8	41	8	28	
H. Norris	4479	770	69	186	30	70	*
Hermitage	1482	530	—	168	—	95	
Harwell	2503	1770	44	391	44	299	Yes
E. Ilsley	3017	450	22	100	22	58	
W. Ilsley	3037	270	8	83	8	67	
Peasemore	2049	190	2	58	2	23	
Upton	1413	250	16	63	16	34	
Totals	74181	15155	830	3694	722	2552	

* Small disposal works in existence for Council Houses only.

No. of dwelling houses connected to the mains	3274
Population connected to water mains (approx)	11000
No. of dwelling houses supplied by S/pipes	176
Population supplied by S/pipes (Est.)	750

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

34 moveable dwellings were licensed throughout the year. 2 licences to use land as caravan sites were also in force.

The licence for a site at Grove was not renewed for the year under review, but after negotiation with the owner it was decided to licence 8 caravans on the site individually.

The improvements to the site at Harwell were nearing completion at the end of the year and conditions were generally satisfactory.

The other site, at Blewbury, has been maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

HOUSING

The selection of tenants for Council houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department during the year.

Council houses were built and let in the following parishes:

Chaddleworth	8
Sparsholt	4
West Ilsley	4
Hampstead Norris	12
Childrey	6
East Challow	10
Letcombe Regis	10
Chilton	6
Compton	5
Total	65

Despite the Council's determination to close and demolish all temporary hutments at the earliest opportunity, it was found necessary to re-let a number of these after rehousing the tenants. This action was forced upon us owing to the number of ejectment orders issued by the Courts with no alternative accommodation available for the unfortunate occupants.

During the year a survey of properties was commenced to comply with the Minister's request for details of the Council's proposals for slum clearance. Most of the properties falling within Category 5 (Housing Survey 1946-47) are being reinspected for this purpose and details should be available by July 1955.

No. of houses reconstructed during the year	31
Condemned houses occupied at January 1954	38
No. of houses for which D.O. or C.O. were made or undertakings accepted	15
Condemned houses closed during 1954	4
Condemned houses demolished during 1954	5
Condemned houses still occupied 31/12/54	38

Total grants under Housing Act, 1949, £6,075 for 30 Cottages.

DISINFESTATION

All new Council houses have been sprayed with DDT solution before occupation, and four other houses have been sprayed for ant or other insect infestation.

RODENT CONTROL

One rodent operator has been employed on rodent control work throughout the year. In June the holder of this post died and when the new operator commenced the opportunity was taken to rearrange the work.

Present methods are more in line with modern research into the subject and have produced much better results than hitherto.

All parishes in the district were surveyed during the second half of the year and treatments were carried out where necessary. In addition the refuse tips and sewage works have been given periodic attention.

661 infestations were discovered and treated during the year.

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	26	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	2	—	—
Total	72	37	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecut'ns instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To HM Inspector	Referred By HM Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	1	—	—	—
Total	3	4	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

There were 4 outworkers in the district all employed in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1954

Number of different premises visited	2913
Number of inspections made	4507
Number of complaints received	168
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	127
Number of notices served: Informal	41
Statutory	4
Number of prosecutions	Nil

Number of nuisances abated

As to privies & W.C.'s, sink wastes, etc.	14
As to drains and cesspools	23
As to pigs and other animals	3
As to deficient or impure water	48
As to unclean houses	1
As to polluted ditches and streams	1
As to insanitary accumulations and deposits	Nil
As to other defects or nuisances	23
Number of premises disinfected	2
Number of water samples for analysis (public)	64
(private)	15
Number of wells closed	Nil
Number of wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	Nil
Number of new wells sunk	Nil
Number of new houses connected to water mains	174
Number of water certificates granted (Rural District only)	Nil
No. of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	45
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	27
Canal boats on register	Nil
Number of slaughter houses on register	4
inspections	27
Piggeries: No of inspections	9
Number of retail dairies in district	9
Number of inspections	63

The Abbey Press, Abingdon.